
Art Masterpiece: *The Peaceable Kingdom*, 1833 by Edward Hicks

Keywords: American Primitive, Art as a messenger.

Grade: 2nd – 3rd

Activity: Peace Collage and Painting



Meet the Artist:

- Edward Hicks was born in Pennsylvania in 1790, 4 years after the American Revolution. He grew up on a farm. When he turned 14, he went to work for a coach maker and a sign painter. He received no formal education as an artist.
- He survived an illness when he was 22. He believed it was a miracle, so he joined a religious group named the Quakers. The Quakers were also called The Society of Friends. They emphasized the need for peace. Eventually, he became a minister in the church.
- Painting became a way that Hicks expressed his beliefs in peace. His best-known paintings were the *Peaceable Kingdom* paintings. He painted the same theme up to 100 times. He once painted his own face onto the lion's body.
- There were always 2 elements to his Peaceable Kingdom paintings. The first was the ideal; that enemies could lie down together in peace. In the background was the second. The background depicts early treaties that the early American settlers made with the Native Americans. The

- background showed that peace was a process, and that in real life, there was strife.
- Interestingly, the only 3 animals that are present in every version of the painting are the cow, the lion and the leopard. His paintings are classified as **American Primitive**. Primitive, since they aren't realistic. The landscape is rather realistic, as are the people and the farm animals, but the animals that he never actually saw have a very childish appearance about them.
 - He was known to struggle through his life with a fiery temper. He died in 1849. His art suggests that as he grew older he felt very peaceful.

Possible Questions:

- **Discuss how the artist painted his belief and importance for Peace.**
- **Discuss how art can be used to send a message to the world.**
 - **What is the message Edward was sending out to the world?**
 - Is this a peaceful scene? yes
 - How did the artist show peace in his painting?
 - Could he be considered a peace-maker?
 - Find combinations of animals that in the real world would not be a peaceful pairing.
 - Notice how this painting has two separate scenes. Animal scene and the American settlers with the Native Americans.
 - Can you see the line that separates these two scenes? (From the darkest trees in the middle, to the bull's shoulder to the edge of grass at the bottom left.)
 - Why do you suppose the artist put two scenes in one painting?
 - Find the man wearing the red coat. Why do you think the artist chose red? (red is a power color as it catches your eye. The man wearing the red is bringing the peace treaty. He is an important character.)

Activity: Peaceable Kingdom Drawing

Materials Needed: approximately 9 x 9" square tag board or cardstock, pencil, rulers, black permanent marker, colored pencils, 12 x 12" Black construction paper, glue sticks, individual pencil sharpeners.

Coordinators: Manilla tag board and cardstock is available through the Warehouse. Both work very well with colored pencils. The color transfers well. Do not use regular construction or drawing paper.

Process:

1. Explain that students will be creating their own Peaceable Kingdom tile.
2. Brainstorm what types of animals live in the jungle. A farm. A zoo. List on the whiteboard for students to refer to later.
3. Using the ruler, create a border around the edge of the tag-board. The fastest way is to have the students use the width of the ruler along the edge and draw a pencil line. Repeat.



4. Still using pencil, draw a **super simple** jungle scene that includes TWO animals that appear to happily co-exist together. These should be an unlikely pair. Lion/Lamb, Monkey/alligator, Cow/Alligator.
5. Include a couple details to the scene to make it look like a jungle or Forest scene. (Palm tree with bananas etc.)
6. Go over the pencil lines with black marker.
7. The border design should be varied line, geometric shapes and patterns.
8. Students can include peace symbols or write out the word PEACE within the border.
9. Begin coloring using colored pencils, emphasizing layering of colors.
10. Tell students to think about their color choices to help show the emotion they want to convey.
11. Affirm the students that they have created a message of how we are to live in this world. They are messengers of Peace! Well-done.
12. Once colored the picture scene can be glued to black construction paper.



Chandler Unified School District Art Masterpiece





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Parent Letter

<p>Brief info about the artist Edward Hicks was born in Pennsylvania in 1790. Painting became a way that Hicks expressed his beliefs in peace. His best known paintings were the Peaceable Kingdom paintings. He painted the same theme up to 100 times.</p> <p>Brief info about the project Students each created their own Peaceable Kingdom tile.</p>	<p>Picture of artwork</p>  This is a reproduction of the painting 'The Peaceable Kingdom' by Edward Hicks. The scene is set in a lush, wooded landscape with a path leading towards a distant, hazy horizon. In the foreground, a lion and a lamb are shown in a state of peace, with the lion resting its paw on the lamb. Other animals, including a bull, a goat, and a sheep, are also depicted in a peaceful coexistence. Two children are sitting on the ground in the foreground, looking towards the animals. In the background, a group of people on horseback is traveling along the path. The painting is characterized by its detailed depiction of nature and its message of peace.
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